

Letter from F. L. Radcliffe to Alexander Graham Bell, January 15, 1888, with transcript

Copy of a letter written to Dr. Bell by his secretary, Dr. F. L. Radcliffe, evidently after an interview with Mr. J. J. Storrow, the eminent lawyer. 1336 — 19th Street, Washington, D. C., Jan. 15, 1888. Dear Mr. Bell.

I have been hoping to see you this week if only for five minutes. I have wanted to try to tell you what Mr. Storrow said. It was touching the Graphophone and I believe it was in the line of your own sentiments. He did not seem to have known that your name appeared as one patentee — He said “No dividends would induce him to steal Edison's thunder; no dividends could compensate him for seeming to.” He says they (your lawyers) have always put your claims on high moral footing. They have maintained that the inventor is greater than the improver . He says if the Volta people own the old Phonograph Co.'s property he wishes they would say so publicly. He was led to ask me about the matter by press articles he had seen. I told him I wished he could tell you what he thought but he said he couldn't very well intrude the subject. If I can not tell you more perhaps I ought to say as much as this before tomorrow's annual meeting.

Yours faithfully and affectionately, F. L. Radcliffe.